

REMARKS

The above-identified application is United States application serial number 09/855,457 filed on May 15, 2001. Claims 1-26 are pending in the application. Claims 14-25 are allowed. Claims 1-13 and 26 are rejected.

Objections to Claims

Claims 18 and 26 are appropriately labeled "Previously Presented" in light of amendment in the response to office action filed 10/11/04.

Amendments to Claims

Claims 10, 13, 18, 22, 23, and 25 are amended to correct minor errors in grammar.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 26 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Morikawa et al. (US Patent No. 5,528,285). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection on the basis that Morikawa does not teach the combined method of "operating a digital camera as a camera prior to docking" and, after docking, "displaying digital images on an LCD of said digital camera in an electronic picture frame operating mode after detecting docking."

The examiner rejects claim 26 by equating display of digital images on an LCD to operating in an electronic picture frame mode. Display of digital images is only one aspect of an electronic picture frame and its operation. The applicant traverses the rejection because Morikawa discloses a telephone system and method of operating in a telephone mode. Morikawa does not disclose an electronic picture frame or a method of operating in an electronic picture frame mode.

On page 7, lines 1-14, the applicant's specification describes aspects of operation of an electronic picture frame including a capability to "be configured to present a slide show of recently taken photos or to display older photos semi-permanently stored on the camera." In contrast, Morikawa teaches a telephone operating mode in which the displayed image is received from a different TV telephone apparatus. The applicant's specification further describes operation of the electronic picture frame as being capable of programming "to

sequence through or randomly select from a very large collection of photos," a capability not disclosed by Morikawa which only discloses display of data from the corresponding TV telephone apparatus. The applicant's specification further describes the capability of an electronic picture frame to "be programmed to receive images from a remote device (and/or location) using various means including, without limitation, internet, modem (wireless or otherwise), local area network (LAN), local wireless or wireless internet." In contrast, Morikawa's telephone system is limited to a capability to receive data from the corresponding TV telephone apparatus and is not described as having capability to display images generated by the local camera or images received from other sources.

Morikawa does not teach a method of displaying digital images that operates in modes including a digital camera mode and an electronic picture frame mode. Morikawa discloses multiple embodiments. One group of embodiments is disclosed as a method including operating in a portable television mode and a video telephone mode. Another group of embodiments, specifically called embodiments 7 and 8, is described as a method including operating in an electronic camera mode and a mode enabled by an image station. From column 49, line 56, to column 50, line 65, Morikawa describes the image station mode as having multiple functions, none of which describe the operation of an electronic picture frame. The functions described by Morikawa include a monitor function in which data is sent from the electronic camera to a large screen home TV set, an image data storage function in which data is sent from the electronic camera to a large-capacity external memory, and a printer function wherein data is sent from the electronic camera to an external memory device for printing. Morikawa also describes a method of performing a telephone function wherein the electronic camera is connected to a telephone line, data is transferred over the telephone line to another TV telephone apparatus, and data is received via the telephone line from another TV telephone apparatus and displayed.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-3, 5, and 9-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al in view of Conoval (U.S. Patent No. 6,400,903). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claims 1-3, 5, and 9-12 at least on the basis that Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose "a camera docking interface . . . adapted to operate the digital camera as an electronic picture frame." Neither Morikawa nor Conoval

discloses an electronic picture frame. In various embodiments, Morikawa discloses a portable television, the portable television used as part of a telephone system, an electronic camera, and an electronic camera used as part of a telephone system.

The examiner describes as "inherent that a digital camera attached to the docking interface may operate as an electronic picture frame using its own controls" based on Morikawa's disclosure of a docking interface." Applicant respectfully disputes such inherency at least on the basis that Morikawa does not disclose operation of a camera as an electronic picture frame but rather describes operation of a camera as part of a telephone system.

Applicant further traverses the rejection of claim 3 on the basis that Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose a digital camera "selectively operated in a digital camera mode and an electronic picture frame mode." Instead Morikawa discloses an electronic camera selectively operated in an electronic camera mode and in a telephone function.

Applicant further traverses the rejection of claim 9 since Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose "a digital camera . . . comprising a processor programmed to receive images from a remote device and/or location via a communication interface selected from among a group consisting of an internet, a wired modem, a wireless modem, a local area network (LAN), a local wireless, and a wireless internet." Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose communication of images from multiple different sources but rather describe a telephone system capable of transmitting images between two TV telephone apparatuses. Col. 34, lines 19-26, specifically describes a "TV telephone apparatus . . . designed to transmit and receive high-quality images when connected between a telephone line and a telephone."

Further regarding claim 10, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose at least "the processor programmed to . . . display images stored within the digital camera in an electronic picture frame operating mode after detecting docking." Morikawa does not teach operation in an electronic picture frame operating mode but rather discloses an electronic camera selectively operated in an electronic camera mode and in a telephone function. In column 40, lines 31-50, Morikawa does not disclose an "electronic picture frame operating mode" but rather teaches a

telephonic operation wherein "[t]o record the image of the communicating party . . . during talking, the operator should depress the image recording switch . . . causing the image to be stored in the video memory."

Further regarding claim 11, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection because Morikawa in view of Conoval do not disclose at least "a processor programmed to selectively operate the digital camera as a camera and as an electronic picture frame . . . including downloading images via internet connection from a website whereby digital images are stored or exchanged peer-to-peer." Morikawa does not teach operation in an electronic picture frame operating mode but rather discloses an electronic camera selectively operated in an electronic camera mode and in a telephone function. In column 40, lines 31-50, Morikawa does not disclose an "electronic picture frame operating mode" but rather teaches a telephonic operation wherein "[t]o record the image of the communicating party . . . during talking, the operator should depress the image recording switch . . . causing the image to be stored in the video memory." In column 41, lines 28-53, Morikawa does not disclose "an electronic picture frame mode including downloading images via internet connection," but rather teaches "an integrated telephone function [that] can transmit and receive high-quality images when connected between a telephone line and a telephone."

Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al in view of Conoval and further in view of Gauthier et al (US Patent No. 6,081,422). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least on the basis that Morikawa in view of Conoval and Gauthier do not disclose "a camera docking interface . . . adapted to operate the digital camera as an electronic picture frame." None of Morikawa, Conoval, or Gauthier discloses an electronic picture frame. In various embodiments, Morikawa discloses a portable television, the portable television used as part of a telephone system, an electronic camera, and an electronic camera used as part of a telephone system.

Claims 6, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al in view of Conoval and further in view of Inubushi et al (US Patent No. 6,148,075). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least on the basis that Morikawa in view of Conoval and Inubushi do not disclose "a camera docking interface . . . adapted to operate the digital camera as an electronic picture frame." None of Morikawa, Conoval, or Inubushi discloses an electronic picture frame. In various embodiments, Morikawa discloses

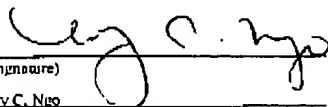
a portable television, the portable television used as part of a telephone system, an electronic camera, and an electronic camera used as part of a telephone system.

Claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Morikawa et al in view of Conoval and further in view of Grein et al (US Patent Application No. 2001/0033344). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection at least on the basis that Morikawa in view of Conoval and Inubushi do not disclose "a camera docking interface . . . adapted to operate the digital camera as an electronic picture frame", or "converting to operation as an electronic picture frame." None of Morikawa, Conoval, or Grein discloses an electronic picture frame. In various embodiments, Morikawa discloses a portable television, the portable television used as part of a telephone system, an electronic camera, and an electronic camera used as part of a telephone system.

CONCLUSION

The application, including all remaining Claims 1-26, is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at (949) 251-0250.

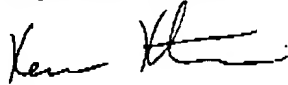
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, Central Number at (703) 872-9306 on the date shown below:


(Signature)

Joy C. Neo
(Printed Name of Person Signing Certificate)

April 26, 2005
(Date)

Respectfully submitted,


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